

STATE SUPT. SWEARINGEN'S
STATEMENT IN FULL

County Superintendent of Education Geo. D. Brown has received a letter from State Superintendent of Education J. E. Swearingen in which he encloses a statement he gave to the daily papers in reference to the office of county superintendent of education of Newberry county in the matter of the declination of Prof. S. J. Derrick. Mr. Swearingen says in part in sending the statement: "I gave the manuscript to the daily papers, but it was not published in full. If either one of your county papers cares to use it, let them do so; if not, please return the manuscript after you have read it. I am frank to say that this situation is a troublesome one." The Herald and News published the statement as it appeared in the daily papers, but we are pleased to print the full statement. It follows:

Prof. S. J. Derrick, of Newberry college declines the appointment tendered him by the State board of education.

"I regard this position as one of very high importance offering exceptional opportunity of real service to the people."

"I think the office of county superintendent of education is a man's job and that the incumbent should give to its duties all his time and certainly his undivided interest, and unless I felt that I could do this I would be unwilling to accept the position, for to accept it with the intention of giving to its duties only a part of my time would be unfair to the schools of the county. Therefore, I beg leave respectfully to decline the position."

These are the expressions of Prof. S. J. Derrick, of Newberry college, in his letter to J. E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education, declining the appointment of county superintendent of education of Newberry county, recently tendered Prof. Derrick by the State board of education.

Under the law any vacancy in the office of county superintendent is to be filled by appointment of the State board of education for the unexpired term.

Supt. George D. Brown resigned to accept the position of State supervisor of Mill schools. He will enter upon his new duties in the State department of education on July 1st.

At its meeting on April 6th, the State board of education tried to select his successor to serve from July 1, 1915, to July 1, 1917. Eight candidates applied for the position. The rules of the State board in making such an appointment require a vote by ballot with an election whenever one candidate receives two-thirds of the votes cast.

The State board of education is composed of nine members—the governor, the State superintendent of education and one representative from each of the seven congressional districts appointed by the governor. At the meeting on April 6th, a deadlock developed. Twelve ballots resulted in no election, since none of the candidates could receive more than four votes, while six were necessary to a choice. Prof. Derrick was not an applicant for the appointment, but his name was suggested in the hope of securing an election. On the thirteenth ballot he was unanimously chosen, receiving the vote of each of the nine members of the State board. After a week's consideration, he has declined the appointment. His letter to the State superintendent is as follows:

"Newberry, S. C., April 14th, 1915.
The State Board of Education,
Columbia, S. C.
Gentlemen:

I wish to thank you for the honor paid me in tendering me the position of county superintendent of education for this county. I regard it as an honor because I regard this position as one of very high importance offering exceptional opportunity of real service to the people. Also, I have been deeply impressed by the fact that so many citizens from all sections of the county have urged me to accept the appointment.

I have given the question of acceptance very earnest consideration. In this consideration I had to keep in mind my duty as I see it, both to the college with which I am connected and to the public schools of the county in which I am interested.

I have decided that at this time it is my duty to stay with the college. Many have suggested that I retain my connection with the college with a reduction in the amount of work and accept at the same time the office of county superintendent. I believe there is no doubt that the college authorities would allow me to make such an arrangement. But I think the office of county superintendent of education is a man's job and that the incumbent should give to its duties all his time and certainly his undivided interest, and unless I felt that I could do this I would be unwilling to accept the position, for to accept it with the intention of giving to its duties only a part of my time would be unfair to the schools of the county. Therefore, I

beg leave respectfully to decline the position. Yours very truly,
(Signed) S. J. Derrick.

A Deplorable Situation.

The salary of the county superintendent in Newberry is fixed absolutely by the county delegation in the legislature. The senator and representatives fixed this salary at \$900 a year. This really means \$75 per month, because the county superintendent is compelled to work twelve months. In fact, June, July, August and September should be his four busiest months. During this time the county superintendent is making up his annual report of school receipts and expenditures, enrollment, teachers, etc. In July he is busy with the appointment of trustees, the erection of school houses, and the outlining of plans for the next session. The selection and employment of teachers is perhaps his most important duty. This work cannot be undertaken without a clear understanding of the financial condition of each district and a constructive grasp of the needs of the school.

Graduates fresh from college halls are demanding and receiving at least \$75 a month as public school teachers. Not a few of them are paid \$100 a month for a term of nine months. The county superintendent is expected to organize, direct and supervise the activities not only of those inexperienced graduates, but of trained, competent and experienced men and women in the schools.

Prof. Derrick believes that this position is a man's job, offering exceptional opportunities for public service. He says further that the interests of the schools demand the full time of the county superintendent. The State board of education has shown its willingness to secure a competent man for this important work. The county superintendent will have fifty-nine white schools, employing one hundred and five teachers and enrolling three thousand six hundred and thirty-four pupils, under his supervision.

One member of the delegation is a life trustee of Clemson college. Would he be willing to put a \$900 man in charge of that institution? Could the board of trustees of Clemson college secure a bookkeeper for \$75 a month?

It is time for South Carolina to recognize the value and importance of the county superintendent's work. He must be the educational leader and organizer of his county. He should not be required or expected to work for nothing. If a professor in a State institution is worth \$2,000 a year to lecture eighteen hours a week or three hours a day for a term of nine months, certainly the county superintendent of a progressive county like Newberry should be paid no less.

It has been found necessary to pay the salaries of county treasurers and county auditors partly by the county and partly by the State. The educational interests of the Commonwealth justify and may require finally the adoption of a similar course with respect to the county superintendent.

The legislature is the highest school board in the State. It fixes the policy with regard to State colleges. In like manner, the legislature as a whole can determine the development of the public schools. The senator and representatives from each county in a peculiar sense constitute the county's school board. The lawmakers appear to be willing to vote ample funds for distribution by college trustees in the payment of the salary of college employees. The salary of each county superintendent, however, is fixed absolutely by the county delegation. Only a few delegations have been willing to assume the responsibility of placing the county superintendent's work on a proper professional and financial basis. The beneficial results of this constructive policy are to be seen in Darlington, Florence, Clarendon and partly in Spartanburg. This situation in Newberry merely repeats similar situations existing within the last few years in Calhoun, Laurens and Abbeville counties. The further development of the schools will depend largely upon the better recognition and stronger organization of the county superintendent's office.

It Was Not Political.

The Newberry Herald and News thinks that we were in error when we referred to their mixing things political with Gov. Manning's appointment of a superintendent for the asylum. As a matter of fact the Newberry paper said that the next general assembly would be "cold-footed" about making any appropriations next year because of the already high taxes and hard times. This seemed to hint at the fear of what constituents might think and accounted for our construction. The Herald and News says:

"Now, honest, do you think the governor has any right to, or is justified in, increasing the pay of any official when that pay is fixed by statute, and when the constitution plainly says that the legislature can not make an appropriation to pay it? The Herald and News never said a word about politics. We will go as far as the York News or Gov. Manning in an effort to care properly for these unfortunate wards of the State. There are many things that could be done to give them better attention than they receive without increasing the expenditure."

A \$3,000 salary and a house to live in and the perquisites, whatever they are, is not a bad salary. The State treasurer only gets \$1,900 and no house. We think that most of the salaries of the State officers are too low, but we do not believe in a governor or any other one man assuming to himself the power to increase salaries at his own will. We would say the same thing about Mr. Manning's predecessor or any one else if he had done the same thing.

"And it seems to us if the expert whom the governor had selected was willing to take the position at the salary fixed by law that some South Carolina physician could have been found who would have been willing to do so, and one who is also competent."

"What these patients need most is to be given employment and to be out of prison. That is about the best treatment for most of them. We have tried as hard as any one to keep politics out of the asylum. Our remarks had absolutely no political bearing except you may stretch the remark that the legislature, in our opinion, would not endorse this increase, or attempted increase, in salary. The unfortunate wards of the State need something more and besides an increase in the salary to be paid the superintendent."

Now as a matter of fact, \$3,000 is a big salary and it is big enough for most ordinary commercial jobs, but we do not know that the services of a highly trained, skilled and efficient physician could be obtained for that sum. Experts and specialists do not often come that way, as all those who have had operations performed chance to know.

The sum and substance of the whole thing is this: If Gov. Manning could secure a trained, skilled, competent man to fill the position for \$3,000 per year, he certainly should have done so and under those circumstances, if such existed, he had no right in the world to give the job to Dr. Williams at the increased salary. On the other hand, if no suitable man could be secured, and Dr. Williams demanded the increased salary (and we believe that this was the case) then the governor did the right thing.

We will argue this case at more length with the esteemed Col. Aull when the scribes get together at Chick Springs.

Notice to Jurors.

Notice is hereby given Petit Jurors drawn to serve at Common Pleas Court beginning May 10th, 1915, that they need not come until Wednesday, May 12th, 1915, as said Court will not convene until that day.

JNO. C. GAGANS,
April 27th, 1915. C. C. C. P.
4-30-2t

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NOTICE OF ELECTION.

Pursuant to the authority of an act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina relating to Newberry School District, passed at the last session thereof, and resolutions of the Trustees of Newberry School District, passed in pursuance of said act, an election will be held at the Council Chamber in the town of Newberry on the 13th day of May, 1915, between the hours of 8 o'clock in the forenoon and 4 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of voting upon the question of continuing the one mill levy, heretofore levied for the purpose of repairs and improvements to buildings, as an addition to the general fund of the district. Those voting for the continuance of said levy shall cast a ballot whereon shall be written "For continuing the one mill levy." Those opposing, a ballot whereon is written "Against continuing the one mill levy."

The qualified electors of said district are alone to vote at said election. Said election will be conducted by J. M. Bowers, A. C. Welch, Speers, who have been appointed agents to conduct the same.

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